

(19)

Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 735 318 B1

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention  
of the grant of the patent:  
15.11.2000 Bulletin 2000/46

(51) Int Cl.7: F23C 7/00, F23R 3/26

(21) Application number: 95301793.5

(22) Date of filing: 15.03.1996

## (54) Variable geometry fuel injector

Kraftstoff-Einspritzdüse mit verstellbarer Geometrie  
Injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
DE FR GB

(74) Representative: Bird, Vivian John  
Rolls-Royce plc,  
Intellectual Property Department,  
P.O. Box 3,  
EW 1-5  
Filton, Bristol BS12 7QE (GB)

(30) Priority: 26.03.1995 GB 9506116

FR-A- 2 704 305

(43) Date of publication of application:  
02.10.1996 Bulletin 1996/40

(56) References cited:  
WO-A-92/17736  
US-A- 4 696 157

(73) Proprietor: ROLLS-ROYCE PLC  
London, SW1E 6AT (GB)

(72) Inventor: Overton, Dennis Llewellyn  
Patchway, Bristol, BS12 6AQ (GB)

Note: Within nine months from the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to the European patent granted. Notice of opposition shall be filed in a written reasoned statement. It shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

EP 0 735 318 B1

**Description**

[0001] This invention relates to a combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means for a gas turbine engine combustor. In particular the invention concerns a fuel injector having airflow control means operative to vary combustor airflow in accordance with engine operating conditions.

[0002] Fuel injectors used in the combustion systems of modern gas turbine engines are usually of the air-spray (or air-blast) atomiser type. These devices are designed to bring together controlled amounts of air and fuel to achieve a well distributed air-fuel mixture for engine combustor entry at a desired air-fuel ratio. Fuel atomisation is achieved by exposing the fuel to a high velocity airflow supplied from the engine compressor. It is generally preferred that the airflow is caused to swirl to increase the relative velocity between the air and the fuel prior to combustor entry. This provides for more efficient burning with the resultant effect of reduced combustor emissions.

[0003] In known arrangements swirl vanes are provided to create the necessary swirl effect. The vanes are arranged in arrays disposed around a central fuel delivery nozzle and/or coaxially with a ring of fuel discharge apertures. The vanes may define radially inflowing air swirl devices or alternatively axial flow devices. In both arrangements the airflow through the injector is determined by the effective flow area of the airflow passages between the vanes.

[0004] The selection of the portion of combustor air that is to enter the combustor through the swirl devices is often a compromise between desired combustor performance at full power conditions, where it is preferable to operate with a relatively weak air-fuel mixture to minimise smoke emissions, and desired combustor performance at low power conditions where there is a requirement to avoid weak extinction. With fixed geometry devices there is a limit to the operational range of the injectors, and in order to obtain satisfactory performance at low power conditions it has been the practice to limit injector air-fuel ratios at high power conditions.

[0005] Optimisation of fuel injector airflow has become more difficult in recent years due to the ever increasing range of engine cycle air-fuel ratios. One approach to this problem has been the development of staged combustors. Typically these combustors include a dedicated pilot stage combustion zone which is optimised for low emission combustion at low power low temperature settings, and a main stage combustion zone which is optimised for low emission combustion at high power high temperature settings. Fuel is fed to dedicated pilot stage fuel injectors during low power operation, and additionally to dedicated main stage injectors during high power operation. During low power operation fuel to the main stage injectors is cut off and all fuel goes to the pilot resulting in improved combustor stability. The drawback however with staged combustors is

that they add to the overall weight and mechanical complexity of the engine.

[0006] Another approach has been to control the airflow through the injectors by making the injectors variable geometry. A number of variable geometry fuel injectors have been proposed wherein the airflow through the injector is controlled by a movable control ring or sleeve disposed about the outer periphery of the vanes. Apertures formed in the control ring (or sleeve) cooperate with the airflow passages between the vanes in such a manner to regulate the airflow entering the injector through the vanes. An example of an injector of this type is disclosed in International Patent Application W092/17736. The injector disclosed in this reference comprises a pair of axially adjacent swirl devices, one of which is of the variable geometry type having an axially translatable sleeve element disposed about its outer periphery, and one which is fixed.

[0007] A problem associated with this and other variable geometry devices is that as the airflow through the injector is restricted there is a resultant increase in combustion chamber pressure loss. The effect of this is to cause the engine compressor to operate closer to a surge condition and the airflow through engine compressor bleed systems to increase. In arrangements where the injectors are provided with one or more fixed geometry swirl devices in addition to at least one variable geometry device, as in W092/17736 above, there is an additional problem of the airflow through the fixed geometry device increasing as the combustion pressure loss increases. This has the effect of negating, at least in part, the airflow reduction intended.

[0008] It is an objective of the present invention therefore to provide a variable geometry fuel injector which overcomes the problems of the prior art. In particular the invention has for an objective a variable geometry fuel injector which has a combustion chamber pressure loss characteristic consistent with that of a fixed geometry device.

[0009] According to the invention there is provided a combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means for a gas turbine engine, comprising a combustor head defining an enclosed combustor head volume or air-only cavity separated on its downstream side from a combustion region by an endwall which is pierced by a multiplicity of apertures including at least one fuel-air mixture aperture and a plurality of air-only apertures, and at least one fuel injector assembly including means defining a fuel-air mixing region opening through the fuel-air mixture aperture into the combustion region, a fuel nozzle which, in operation, sprays fuel into the fuel-air mixing region, and airflow control means having a first flow passage for admitting air into the fuel-air mixing region and a second passage including a movable diverter member for selectively diverting air entering the second passage to exit either into the mixing region or via the enclosed combustor head volume into the plurality of air-only apertures whereby

airflow into the mixing region may be varied.

[0010] Preferably in the closed position the air passing through the vanes is directed into a cavity disposed on the upstream side of the combustion chamber.

[0011] Preferably the cavity is divided from the combustion chamber by a combustion chamber endwall, and the endwall is apertured to provide the air-fuel and air-only outlets.

[0012] Preferably the air-fuel and air-only outlets are spaced apart so that air entering the combustion chamber through the air-only outlet or outlets has substantially no effect on the combustion chamber air-fuel ratio immediately downstream of the air-fuel outlet.

[0013] The flow control means may comprise an axially translatable sleeve which co-operates with a coaxial annular flange member to define an annular flow boundary between the air-fuel mixing region and the cavity.

[0014] Preferably the sleeve comprises an inner annular wall member which forms part of the flow boundary, and an adjoining outer annular wall which forms part of a sleeve valve arrangement for directing air exiting the vanes to the alternative air-fuel and air-only flow outlets.

[0015] The outer wall member may be provided with a plurality of circumferentially spaced apertures through which air exiting the vanes passes as the sleeve is progressively moved to restrict the air entering the mixing region.

[0016] The invention will now be described in greater detail, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a partial, longitudinal sectional view of a gas turbine engine combustor having a variable air-fuel injector of the present invention in a high power configuration.

Figure 2 shows the injector of Figure 1 configured for low power engine operation, and

Figure 3 is a part cut-away view of the injector of Figure 1 in the direction of A revealing details of an injector actuating mechanism.

[0017] With reference to Figure 1, there is shown, a variable geometry air-fuel injector 10 positioned at the upstream end of a gas turbine engine combustor 12. A plurality of such injectors are circumferentially spaced around the combustor 12 for delivery of an air-fuel mixture to a primary combustion zone 13. Figure 1 shows the sectional detail of one injector, all the injectors in the system being identical. In Figure 1 the surrounding engine detail, such as elements of the engine compressor and turbine which lie adjacent the combustor, is omitted for clarity.

[0018] In use, a portion of incoming air from the engine compressor (not shown, but to the left of the drawing in Figure 1) is directed to the injectors 10 where it is

mixed with fuel to form a vaporised air-fuel mixture. This mixture enters the upstream primary combustion zone 13 where it is burnt. The combustion gasses then enter a downstream dilution or secondary zone (not shown)

5 where additional air from the engine compressor is added prior to expansion through the engine turbine (also not shown, but to the right of the drawing in Figure 1).

[0019] The combustor shown is of a generally conventional configuration and includes a pair of radially 10 spaced annular sidewall members 14 and 16 which are coaxially disposed about a main engine axis 18. The sidewalls are connected at their upstream end by means of an aerodynamically shaped combustor head portion 20 and an upstream combustor bulkhead 22. The bulkhead extends radially between the sidewalls to provide an annular partition between an upstream air cavity 24 and a downstream combustion chamber region 26.

[0020] A protective heatshield 28 is mounted on the downstream face of the bulkhead 22 to provide thermal 20 shielding from combustion temperatures. The heatshield has an annular configuration made up of a plurality of abutting heatshield segments which are bolted in abutting relationship to the bulkhead 22. The segments, which are of substantially identical form, extend both radially towards the inner and outer walls 14 and 16 of the combustor, and circumferentially towards adjacent segments to provide a fully annular shield.

[0021] The bulkhead is provided with a plurality of circumferentially spaced apertures 30 for air-fuel entry to the combustion chamber 26, and a like plurality of apertures 32 and 34 for air-only entry. The air-fuel apertures 30 are positioned mid-way between the inner and outer combustor walls 14 and 16 and align with a corresponding series of apertures 31 formed in the upstream head portion 20. The air-only apertures 32 and 34 lie adjacent the combustor walls at the radially inner and outer bulkhead extremities. The heatshield segments, which are each associated with an adjacent one of the air-fuel apertures 30, are similarly provided with air-fuel 40 entry apertures 36 which align with the bulkhead apertures 30 in the combustor assembly. The segments are each spaced a short distance from the bulkhead to create a series of under-segment chambers 38. Each segment is spaced from the bulkhead by an annular flange 45 40 formed around the air-fuel aperture 36. The chambers 38 are each adapted to receive a supply of cooling air for tile cooling through a further series of bulkhead apertures 42 formed around the air-fuel entry apertures 30. The cavity 24 is vented at a number of positions 25 to receive a portion of the compressor airflow for supply to the under tile chambers 38.

[0022] Each injector has a generally cylindrical configuration and comprises a pair of axially spaced air swirl devices 44 and 46 disposed about a main injector axis 48, a central fuel delivery nozzle 50 aligned substantially along that axis, and an axially extending downstream cylindrical flange portion 52 which locates the injector in a respective one of the combustor apertures 31. The fuel

delivery nozzle 50 is positioned at the distal end of a fuel delivery arm 51 suspended from surrounding engine casing structure (not shown).

[0023] The first of the swirl devices 44 comprises a plurality of circumferentially spaced swirl vanes 54 which define a first series of radially inflowing air-inlet passages 56. The second device 46 comprises a like plurality of swirl vanes 58 which define an adjacent series of inlet passages 60. As Figure 1 shows, the first and second swirl devices define first and second airflow inlets to a central air-fuel mixing region 68 downstream of the fuel nozzle 50.

[0024] The first series of vanes 54 are disposed between an upstream injector end wall 62 and a profiled annular flow divider 64. The second set of vanes 58 are disposed in a similar manner between the flow divider 64 and the upstream extremity of the cylindrical flange 52.

[0025] The end wall 62 and flow divider 64 define opposing sides of a common flow path 66 which extends from the vane inlet passages 56 to the air-fuel mixing region 68. The flow path 66 has an arcuate profile which is determined by the correspondingly shaped interior end wall and upstream flow divider surfaces 70 and 72. The shape of the flow path 66 is such that the air entering the injector through the vanes 56 is turned through 90 degrees before entering the air-fuel mixing region 68. An arcuate flow path 74 is similarly defined on the downstream side of the flow divider 64. This flow path extends in a similar manner between the vanes 58 and the air-fuel mixing region 68. The shape of the flow path 74 corresponds to that of the adjacent flow path 66 so that air entering the injector through the vanes 56 is caused to exit in the direction of the injector axis 48.

[0026] In accordance with the invention the downstream boundary of the injector flow path 74 is provided by an upstream portion of a axially moveable flow control ring 78.

[0027] The flow control ring comprises a pair of radially spaced annular wall members 80 and 82 which are joined at their respective upstream ends along a common side edge 83. The inner wall member 80 defines an annular airflow boundary between the air-fuel mixing region 68 and the surrounding airflow cavity 24. The inner wall 80 includes a downstream cylindrical wall section 84 which has a stepped outer surface for cooperation with an overlapping portion of a cylindrical flange 86 extending from the bulkhead aperture 30, and a profiled upstream portion 88 which is shaped in accordance with the downstream surface of the flow divider 64. The outer wall 82 includes a main cylindrical portion 90 which lies adjacent the injector flange 52 and a radially spaced cylindrical flange 92. The flange 92 is positioned at the downstream end of the cylinder in coaxial spaced relation so as provide an annular recess 94 for receiving the injector flange 52. The recess 94 provides for location of the control ring with respect to the injector body and in addition provides a guide for the movable ring along

the injector axis.

[0028] A plurality of circumferentially spaced airflow apertures 96 are distributed around the cylinder 90 immediately downstream of the adjoining side edge 83.

5 These apertures form the side openings of a sleeve valve arrangement which is operative to direct the flow exiting the vane passages 60 to selective alternative regions.

[0029] The control ring 78 which forms the movable 10 part of the sleeve valve arrangement is connected to a rotatable input shaft 98. The shaft extends radially outward from the injector 10 through a bush 100 located in the combustor head 20. Preferably the shaft extends in the radial direction of the engine and is connected at its 15 radially outermost end to a unison ring (not shown) linking all the injectors 10 for coordinated operation.

[0030] As can best be seen from Figure 3 the radially innermost end of the shaft 98 is attached to one end 20 of an actuating lever 102. The lever has a elongate slot 104 which is adapted to receive an upstanding pin 106 secured to the cylindrical flange 92 at the 12 O'clock position of the ring. The shaft is offset from the pin so that as the shaft rotates the control ring is caused to translate.

25 [0031] The control ring is moveable between the positions shown in Figures 1 and 2. In the position of Figure 1 the injector is configured for high power engine operation. The control ring 78 is positioned as far rearward as the arrangement will allow. The upstream edge of the 30 ring is aligned with the downstream extremity of the downstream injector vane passages 60. The apertures 96 at the upstream end of the ring are disposed adjacent the cylindrical flange 52. The ring effectively seals the cavity 24 from the airflow through the vanes. In this position all the air passing through the vane passages 56 and 60 enters the mixing region 68 for discharge as an air-fuel mixture to the primary combustion region 13.

[0032] In the position of Figure 2 the control ring 78 has been moved to the position shown by rotation of the 40 actuation shaft 98. In this position the injector is configured for low power engine operation. The forward edge of the control ring is now positioned adjacent the flow divider 64. Translation of the ring causes the airflow apertures 92 to align with the vane passages 60. This 46 causes the airflow through the downstream passages 60 to flow into the cavity region 24 for combustor entry at airflow entry apertures 32 and 34. The movement of the ring to this position effects a reduction in the overall air-fuel ratio of the air and fuel mixture entering the combustion zone through the air-fuel openings 30,36. The portion of air entering through the vanes 58 is diverted to the cavity 24 and the only airflow to the mixing region 68 is that entering through the upstream vane passages 56.

55 [0033] The injector described provides for greater operational flexibility since there is little or no change in effective injector air inlet area during flow modulation. The Inlet flow area presented to the incoming compres-

sor airflow by the vane passages 56 and 60 remains constant regardless of control ring position. The only effect the control ring has is to alter the proportion of the incoming air which enters the air-fuel mixing region.

[0034] From the foregoing it will be appreciated that the pressure loss characteristic of the gas turbine engine combustor described will correspond to that of a conventional combustor equipped with fixed geometry air-fuel injection devices. As previously mentioned this provides for greater airflow control and also engine operational stability.

#### Claims

1. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means for a gas turbine engine, comprises a combustor head (20) defining an enclosed combustor head volume or air-only cavity (24) separated on its downstream side from a combustion region (26) by a bulkhead wall (22) which is pierced by a multiplicity of apertures including at least at least one fuel-air mixture aperture (30) and a plurality of air-only apertures (32,34), and at least one fuel injector assembly (10) including means defining a fuel-air mixing region (68) opening through the fuel-air mixture aperture (30) into the combustion region (26), a fuel nozzle (50) which, in operation, sprays fuel into the fuel-air mixing region (68), and airflow control means having a first flow passage (66) for admitting air into the fuel-air mixing region and a second passage (74) including a movable diverter member (78) for selectively diverting air entering the second passage (74) to exit either into the mixing region (68) or via the enclosed combustor head volume (24) into the plurality of air-only apertures (32,34) whereby airflow into the mixing region (68) may be varied.
2. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means as claimed in claim 1 wherein the movable diverter member (78) of the airflow control means comprises an axially translatable diverter sleeve.
3. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means as claimed in claim 2 wherein the axially translatable sleeve cooperates with a coaxial annular flange member (86) to define a flow boundary between the air fuel mixing region (68) and the air-only cavity (24).
4. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means as claimed in claim 3 wherein the diverter member (78) comprises an inner annular wall member (84) which forms part of the flow boundary, and an adjoining outer annular wall member (82) which forms part of a sleeve valve

arrangement for diverting air in the second passage (74) into either the air-fuel mixing region (68) or the air-only cavity (24) and outlets (32,34).

5. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means as claimed in claim 4 wherein the outer annular wall member (82) is provided with a plurality of circumferentially spaced apertures (96) through which air entering the second passage (74) is diverted as the diverter sleeve (78) is progressively moved to restrict air entering the mixing region (68).
6. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the first and second passages (66, 74) of the airflow control means include airflow swirl vanes (44,46).
7. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means as claimed in claim 6 further including a fuel nozzle (50) disposed on a longitudinal axis (48) and the swirl vanes (44,46) are arranged in an annular array about said axis (48) to provide a radially inward flow of air with respect to the axis, and the upstream end of the diverter sleeve (78) is profiled to turn the inwardly flowing air through substantially 90° into the axially extending mixing region (68).
8. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7 wherein the air inlet swirl vanes (44,46) are axially spaced and the airflow diverter means is associated with the downstream array of vanes (46).
9. A combustion chamber head assembly with variable geometry fuel injector means as claimed in claims 2 to 8 wherein the axially translatable sleeve (78) is adapted to receive a rotatable input and means (98,102) are provided for converting the rotatable input into an axial translation of the diverter sleeve (78).

#### Patentansprüche

1. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstoffein-spritzmitteln variabler Geometrie für ein Gasturbi-nentrtriebwerk, mit einem Brennkammerkopf (20), der ein umschlossenes Brennkammerkopfvolumen oder eine Nur-Luft-Kammer (24) bildet, das bzw. die an der stromabwärtigen Seite von einem Brennbe-reich (26) durch eine Trennwand (22) abgetrennt ist, die durch eine Vielzahl von Öffnungen durchbro-chnen ist, die mindestens eine Brennstoff-Luft-Ge-mischöffnung (30) und eine Vielzahl von Nur-Luft-

Öffnungen (32, 34) umfassen, und mit mindestens einer Brennstofffeinspritzerbaugruppe (10) mit Mitteln, die einen Brennstoff-Luft-Mischbereich (68) bilden, der durch die Brennstoff-Luft-Gemischschöpfung (30) in den Brennbereich (26) ausmündet, weiter eine Brennstoffdüse (50), die im Betrieb Brennstoff in den Brennstoff-Luft-Mischbereich (68) einspritzt, und Luftstromsteuermittel umfaßt, die einen ersten Strömungskanal (66) zum Zuführen von Luft in den Brennstoff-Mischbereich und einen zweiten Kanal (74) mit einem beweglichen Umlenktteil (78) zum wahlweisen Umlenken von in den zweiten Kanal (74) eintretenden Luft aufweisen, so daß diese entweder in den Mischbereich (68) oder über das umschlossene Brennkammerkopfvolumen (24) in die Mehrzahl von Nur-Luft-Öffnungen (32, 34) austritt, wodurch der Luftstrom in den Mischbereich (68) variiert werden kann.

2. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstofffeinspritzmitteln variabler Geometrie nach Anspruch 1, wobei das bewegliche Umlenktteil (78) der Luftstromsteuermittel eine axial verschiebbare Umlenkhülse aufweist.

3. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstofffeinspritzmitteln variabler Geometrie nach Anspruch 2, wobei die axial verschiebbare Hülse mit einem koaxialen Ringflanschteil (86) zusammenwirkt, um eine Strömungsbegrenzung zwischen dem Luft-Brennstoff-Mischbereich (68) und der Nur-Luft-Kammer (24) zu bilden.

4. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstofffeinspritzmitteln variabler Geometrie nach Anspruch 3, wobei das Umlenktteil (78) ein inneres ringförmiges Wandteil (84) aufweist, das Teil der Strömungsbegrenzung bildet, und ein angrenzendes äußeres ringförmiges Wandteil (82) aufweist, das Teil einer Hülsenventilanordnung zum Umlenken von Luft in den zweiten Kanal (74) entweder in den Luft-Brennstoff-Mischbereich (68) oder die Nur-Luft-Kammer (24) und die Auslässe (32, 34) bildet.

5. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstofffeinspritzmitteln variabler Geometrie nach Anspruch 4, wobei das äußere ringförmige Wandteil (82) mit einer Mehrzahl von umfangsmäßig beabstandeten Öffnungen (96) versehen ist, durch welche in den zweiten Kanal (74) eintretende Luft abgeleitet wird, während die Umlenkhülse (78) fortschreitend bewegt wird, um die in den Mischbereich (68) eintretende Luft zu drosseln.

6. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstofffeinspritzmitteln variabler Geometrie nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, wobei der erste und der zweite Kanal (66, 74) der Luftstromsteuermittel

7. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstofffeinspritzmitteln variabler Geometrie nach Anspruch 5 weiter mit einer Brennstoffdüse (50), die auf einer Längsachse (48) angeordnet ist, und wobei die Drallflügel (44, 46) in einer ringförmigen Anordnung um die genannte Achse (48) angeordnet sind, um eine radial einwärts mit Bezug auf die Achse (48) angeordnet sind, um eine radial einwärts mit Bezug auf die Achse gerichtete Luftströmung zu erzeugen, und wobei das stromauwärtige Ende der Umlenkhülse (78) so profiliert ist, daß die Einwärtsströmende Luft um etwa 90° in den axial verlaufenden Mischbereich (68) umgelenkt wird.

8. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstofffeinspritzmitteln variabler Geometrie nach Anspruch 6 oder 7, wobei die Luftentnahmedrallflügel (44, 46) axial beabstandet sind und die Luftstromumlenkmittel der stromauwärtigen Anordnung von Flügeln (46) zugeordnet ist.

9. Brennkammerkopfbaugruppe mit Brennstofffeinspritzmitteln variabler Geometrie nach den Ansprüchen 2 bis 8, wobei die axial verschiebbare Hülse (78) für eine drehende Eingangsbewegung ausgebildet ist und Mittel (98, 102) zum Umsetzen der drehenden Eingangsbewegung in eine Axialverschiebung der Umlenkhülse (78) vorgesehen sind.

#### Revendications

1. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable, pour un moteur à turbine à gaz, comprenant une tête de chambre de combustion (20) définissant un volume de tête de chambre de combustion enfermé ou de cavité d'air seul (24), séparé sur son côté aval d'une région de combustion (26), séparé sur son côté aval d'une région de combustion (26) par une cloison d'extrémité (22) qui est percée d'une multiplicité d'ouvertures comportant au moins une ouverture de mélange carburant-air (30) et une pluralité d'ouvertures d'air seul (32, 34) et au moins un ensemble d'injecteurs de carburant (10) comportant des moyens définissant une région de mélange carburant-air (68) débouchant à travers l'ouverture de mélange carburant-air (30) dans la région de combustion (26), une buse de carburant (50) qui, en fonctionnement, pulvérise du carburant dans la région de mélange carburant-air (68) et des moyens de commande d'écoulement d'air comportant un premier passage d'écoulement (66) pour admettre de l'air dans la région de mélange carburant-air et un deuxième passage (74) comportant un élément de déviation mobile (78) pour dévier de ma-

nière sélective l'air entrant dans le deuxième passage (74) pour sortir, soit dans la région de mélange (68), soit par l'intermédiaire du volume fermé de la tête de la chambre de combustion (24), dans la pluralité d'ouvertures d'air seul (32, 34), de façon à pouvoir faire varier l'écoulement d'air dans la région de mélange (68).

2. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'élément de déviation mobile (78) des moyens de commande d'écoulement d'air comprend un manchon de déviation pouvant être déplacé axialement.
3. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le manchon pouvant être déplacé axialement coïncide avec un élément formant bride annulaire coaxiale (86), de manière à définir une frontière d'écoulement entre la région de mélange air-carburant (68) et la cavité d'air seul (24).
4. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable selon la revendication 3, dans lequel l'élément de déviation (78) comprend un élément formant paroi annulaire interne (84) qui fait partie de la frontière d'écoulement et un élément de paroi annulaire externe contigu (82) qui fait partie d'un agencement de valve à manchon pour dévier l'air dans le deuxième passage (74) dans l'une ou l'autre de la région de mélange air-carburant (68) ou de la cavité d'air seul (24) et des sorties (32, 34).
5. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable selon la revendication 4, dans lequel l'élément de paroi annulaire externe (82) est pourvu d'une pluralité d'ouvertures circonférentiellement espacées (96) à travers lesquelles l'air pénétrant dans le deuxième passage (74) est dévié à mesure que le manchon du dispositif de déviation (78) est déplacé progressivement afin de limiter l'entrée d'air dans la région de mélange (68).
6. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel les premier et deuxième passages (66, 74) des moyens de commande d'écoulement d'air comprennent des déflecteurs d'air (44, 46).
7. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable selon la revendication 6, compre-

nant en outre une buse de carburant (60) disposée sur un axe longitudinal (48) et les déflecteurs (44, 46) sont disposés en un réseau annulaire autour dudit axe (48), de manière à constituer un écoulement d'air radialement vers l'intérieur par rapport à l'axe, et l'extrémité amont du manchon du dispositif de déviation (78) est profilée de manière à faire tourner l'air s'écoulant vers l'intérieur sensiblement de 90° dans la région de mélange s'étendant axialement (68).

B. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable selon la revendication 6 ou la revendication 7, dans lequel les déflecteurs d'admission d'air (44, 46) sont espacés axialement et les moyens de déviation d'écoulement d'air sont associés au réseau de déflecteurs (46) vers l'aval.

29 9. Ensemble de tête de chambre de combustion avec des moyens formant injecteur de carburant à géométrie variable selon les revendications 2 à 8, dans lequel le manchon pouvant être déplacé axialement (78) est adapté pour recevoir une entrée rotative, et des moyens (98, 102) sont prévus pour transformer l'entrée rotative en un déplacement axial du manchon du dispositif de déviation (78).

30

35

40

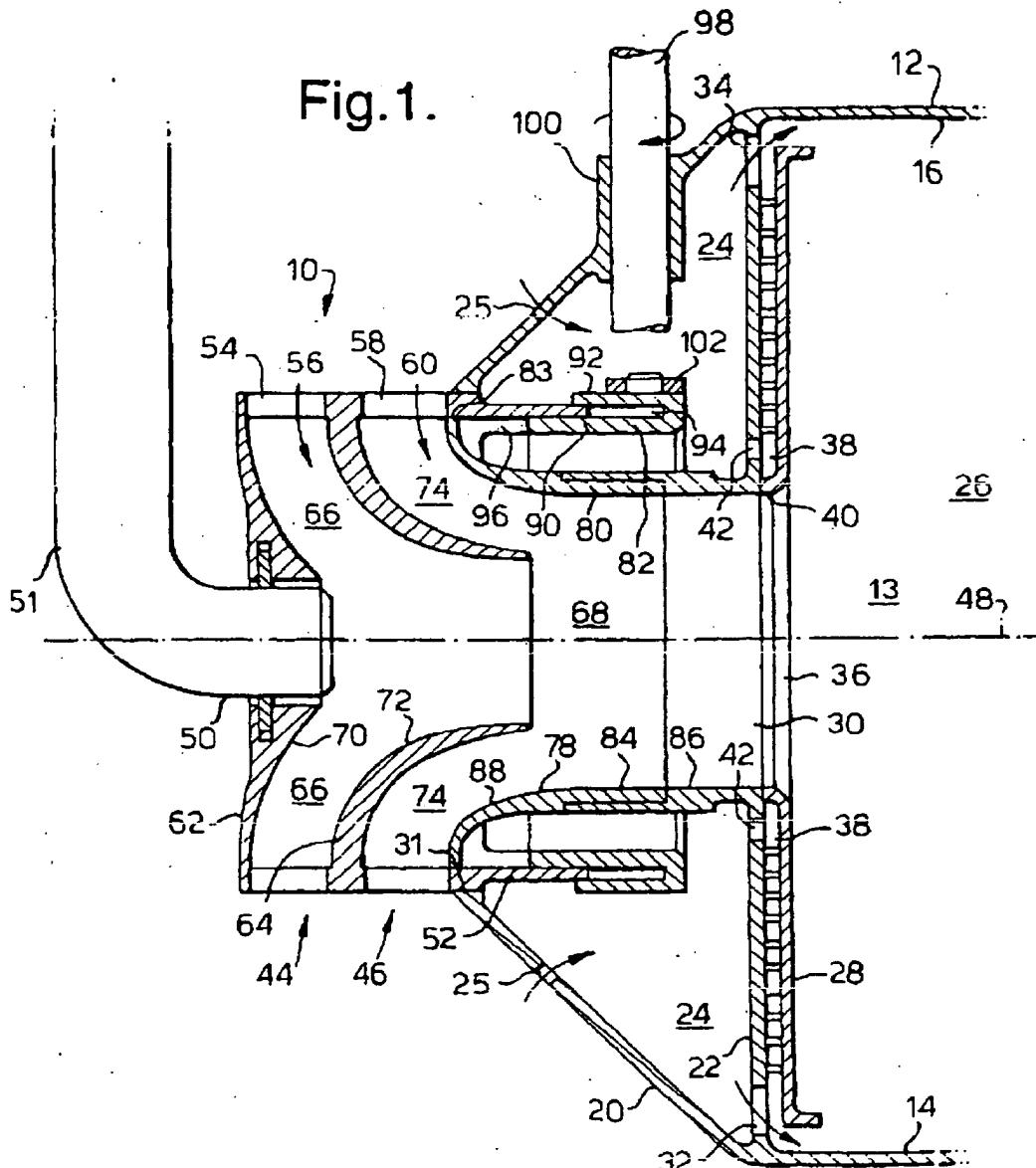
45

50

55

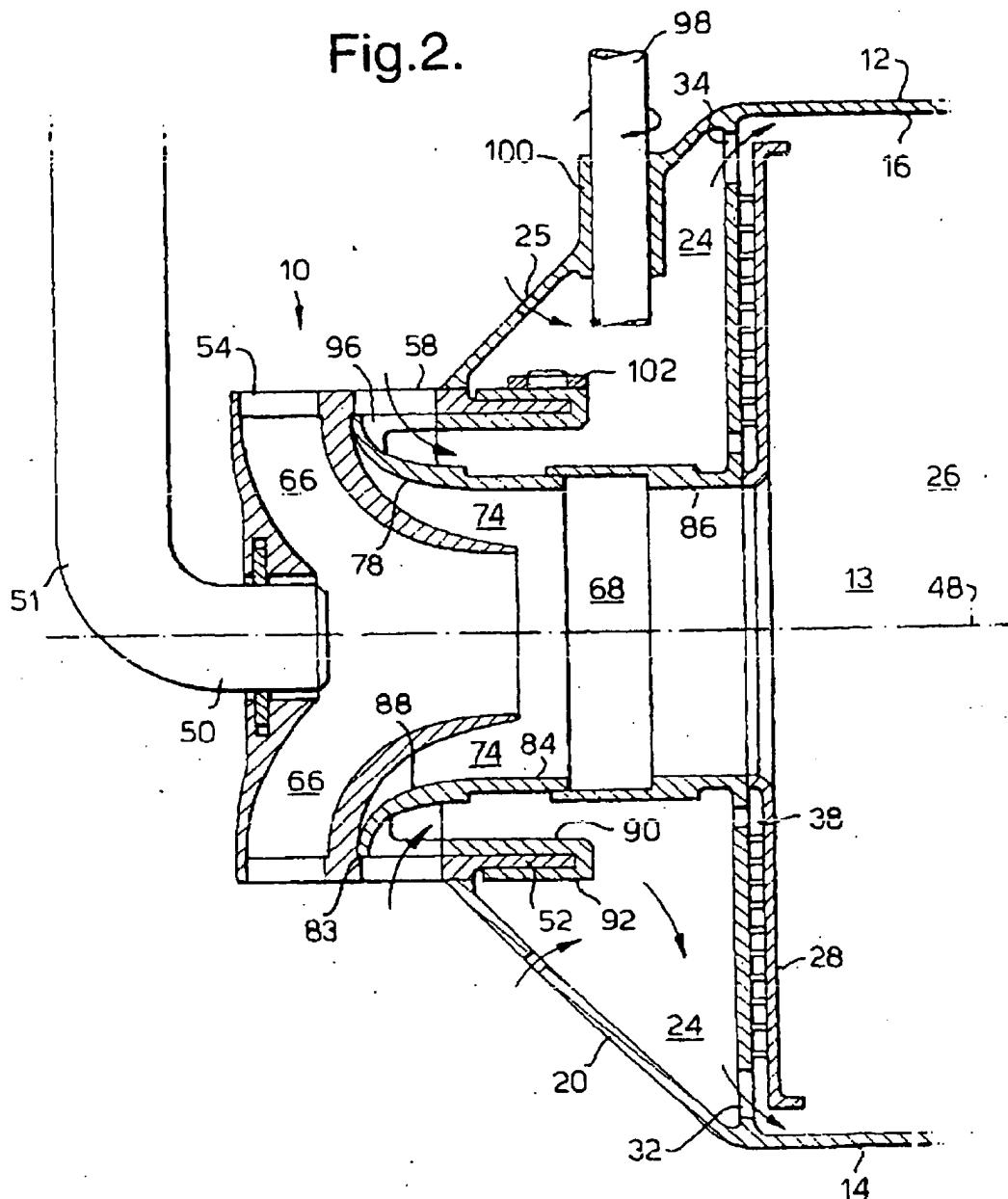
EP 0 735 318 B1

Fig. 1.



EP 0 735 318 B1

Fig.2.



EP 0 735 318 B1

Fig.3.

